## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06413 101613Z ACTION EUR-12

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R 101513Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7193 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO SUPREME COURT CHAIRMAN SMIRNOV TO UN CONFERENCE

REF STATE 094877, STATE 102400

- 1. EMBASSY RECENTLY TELEPHONED OFFICE OF USSR SUPREME COURT CHAIRMAN SMIRNOV TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF UN INVITATION AND TALKED WITH PETROSYAN, OF SMIRNOV'S STAFF. PETROSYAN EXPLAINED THAT SMIRNOV HAD BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL FOR ALMOST TWO MONTHS AND WOULD REMAIN THERE ANOTHER WEEK OR TWO, WHICH ALONG WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO ATTEND CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR MAY 22-27 IN RENO. IN ADDITION, A PLENUM OF USSR SUPREME COURT IS SCHEDULED TO MEET ON MAY 31. "YOU WILL SOON READ THE ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THIS IN THE PAPERS," HE ADDED.
- 2. AS A RESULT OF THESE TWO CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE FOR SMIRNOV TO ACCEPT UN INVITATION AND MUELLER OF UN SECRETARIAT HAS ALREADY BEEN SO INFORMED. MUELLER HAD ASKED AMBASSADOR TROYANOVSKIY WHETHER SOVIETS COULD SEND SOMEONE ELSE IN PLACE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 06413 101613Z

OF SMIRNOV. PETROSYAN SAID THIS QUESTION WAS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BUT THAT NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN.

3. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT THE REASON HE CALLED WAS TO INFORM SMIRNOV'S OFFICE INFORMALLY THAT THE EMBASSY WAS PREPARED TO FACILITATE VISIT AND TO HELP SMIRNOV

(OR REPLACEMENT) DEVELOP A PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES IN US IF HE DESIREDONE. PETROSYAN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND PROMISED TO INFORM EMBASSY OF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

4. CHANGING SUBJECT, PETROSYAN SAID THAT AN INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER TO VISIT USSR. VISIT WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST HALF OF JULY BUT AS A RESULT OF A BAD LEG REQUIRING TREATMENT, BURGER HAD REQUESTED TO PUT OFF VISIT UNTIL SEPTEMBER. PETROSYAN NOTED THAT SMIRNOV WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND ASKED IF HE COULD CALL EMBASSY ON ANY MATTER CONNECTED WITH VISIT. EMBOFF ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY.

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